

less to the ministers whose names are on the tablet, Rev. Elijah Peck was not a pastor, but among his various pioneer labors, held meetings in the vicinity of this church for several years, and was instrumental in its formation, which occurred November 10, 1831. Reverends Smitzer, Jones, Hubbard, Smith, Fox and Walling were pastors in the early years, before my recollections, yet in later years, I was acquainted with Revs. Smith and Fox; so I personally knew all but five of those who have been in charge of this church.

Rev. Henry Curtis was born in England Oct. 11, 1800. He came to America in 1812 and settled in Gilbertsville, N. Y. He was converted in New York city at the age of sixteen years, baptized by Rev. John Williams, of the Oliver street Baptist church, licensed March 10, 1824. March 13 he was married to Miss Eliza Banning. His first pastorate was with the Windsor and Harpersville churches, N. Y. He came to Bethany as pastor in 1832 and soon was actively engaged as supply for the nearby churches. He was pastor at Carbondale for about two years and of the Clinton church about twelve years. Time fails to go into details as to his long and faithful labors as an efficient servant of his Saviour Jesus Christ. His is an honored name, worthy of being held in sweet remembrance by his descendants many of whom are esteemed neighbors in this community, and also by the many who had the privilege of being under his ministry.

"Clinton church has been especially blessed with pastors, as many know. Revs. Bunting, Remsen and Rainey, who with the other under shepherds, have been godly men who exemplified the Christianity they proclaimed by a consistent life. They will deserve to be honored by a lasting monument to remind the coming generations of those who laid the foundations of Clinton Baptist church. May their memories be cherished, and lives so lived that no stain shall blot the fair name of this church and community."

After repairing to the church, the choir sang, "The little brown church in the wildwood" and the address of welcome was given by Pastor Winters.

Mr. Sheldon Norton of Carbondale, whose father Deacon E. K. Norton was an honored member of Clinton church, gave not only an interesting but instructive address to which the large audience listened with rapt attention. He spoke of the qualifications necessary to perpetuate the church and our country as based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, citing the destruction of the old nations as they failed to do righteously, closing with boyhood recollections.

(To be continued.)

→ These "boyhood recollections"  
were given on  
08-27-1915